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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Loher et al.

Application No.: 08/849,746

Confirmation No: 4225

Filed: September 5, 1997

For: PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING
COMPONENTS MADE OF FIBER-
REINFORCED THERMO-PLASTIC
MATERIALS

Group: 1732

Examiner: S. Staicovici

Our File: LUD-PT007

Date: September 12, 2005

REPLY BRIEF

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Brief is submitted within two months of the mailing date of the
Examiner's Answer filed on July 12, 2005.

This Reply addresses one issue in the Answer, it being understood that the Applicant's positions were previously set forth in its original Appeal Brief, and the Answer, for the most part, repeats arguments made during prosecution.

The Answer twice argues that the claims are "drawn to an extrusion type process and not an injection type process." See pages 25 and 26, Paragraphs (10)(B)(a) and (10)(C)(a). In support, the Answer cites the application paragraph [0059].¹

Independent claims 1 and 2 recite two features that set them apart from an extrusion process:

pressing said heated blank into the negative mold using a pressing head that travels at a speed of 2mm/sec to 80 mm/sec, and

shaping the blank in the negative mold by virtue of the entire blank flowing from the heating stage into and filling up the negative mold.

These features, particularly placing the blank in a negative mold and filling up same, would not be shown or suggested by an extrusion process, and particular not in the composite sheets (U.S. Patent No. 4,356,228 to Kabayashi) and non-medical (U.S. Patent Nos. 4,662,887 and 5,156,558 to Turner and Marcune) prior art.

Claim 7, which depends from claim 1, recites a push-pull process, and despite the name of the process as "push-pull extrusion," the process involves an injection process that uses two units to push and pull thermoplastic through the mold. This


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push-pull process is different from traditional extrusion in that it uses injectors within a negative mold to push and pull the thermoplastic through the mold. Thus, the art of traditional extrusion cannot be combined to teach the elements of the injection and push-pull process claims. Moreover, the "pulling" feature is entirely absent from the prior art cited against the claims, and thus the prior art does not show the claimed push-pull process.

For the above reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Loher et al.

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¹ This is Paragraph [0059] in corresponding Publication No. 2003/0057590.



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Approved for use through 07/31/2006.

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Application Number	08/849,746
Filing Date	September 5, 1997
First Named Inventor	Loher et al.
Art Unit	1732
Examiner Name	S. Staicovici
Attorney Docket Number	LUD-PT007

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